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Control: 541
Rec'd: August 3, 1954 2:15 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 145, August 2, 9 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG - 3 1954
file jrj

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT 145; REPEATED INFORMATION NIACT MANAGUA 9.

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE.

At Castillo Armas' request, I called on him privately at 5:30 and he told me he intended to leave for Zacapa about 9 p.m. to rejoin liberation forces. He said he was persuaded Army's action today was doublecross.

He said he was leaving Colonel Monzon and Major Oliva, of Junta and Cabinet, in charge here in order to continue government and to prevent escape of asylees in foreign Embassies. He has alerted trucks controlled by Minister of Communications Martin Prado Velez and they would transport some of his followers in city towards Zacapa, where Colonel Jorge Barrios Solares still had command of some 500 men. He expected about 100 regular Army officers to come over to him. He also intended to direct P-51 planes to fly to Managua.

Castillo was cool but apprehensive about situation. He said Archbishop and Colonel Cruz Salazar were trapped in Roosevelt Hospital and base military and cadet forces would not let them leave. When Prado Velez called National Radio to order it to broadcast this news, Army officer now in charge had refused. He also thought incident of humiliation of two cadets last night could hardly have been cause of fighting of this scale, and there was no doubt in his mind affair was engineered to excite Army.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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NOTE: ~~Passed OSD, Army, Navy, Air 8/3/54~~, 3:15 a.m., HJR
Mr. Aleddy (MID) notified 8/3/54, 3:40 a.m., TEM.

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